

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 099772  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 IO-14 ACDA-12 /130 R

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APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY  
-----072120 190619Z /14

R 190020Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USINT HAVANA  
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 099772

UNCLAS STATE 099772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 18, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA?

A: NO.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA?

A: NO. I DON'T THINK I HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q: THE LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH TODAY HAS A REPORT THAT THE NUMBER OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA HAS REACHED 50,000 IN SOME SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 1,000 IN MOZAMBIQUE, 400 IN ZAMBIA; AND IT SAYS THAT MORE ARE BEING DRAFTED INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA TO ASSIST GUERRILLAS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WHITE GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA. AS YOU DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THERE ON THAT, I WONDER -- COULD YOU LOOK INTO THIS AND PERHAPS GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE U.S. ASSESSMENTS OF THE NUMBER OF CUBANS IN AFRICA AND THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 099772

A: YES.

Q: WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION HERE TO THE APPARENT FAILURE TO BRING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT TOGETHER? I MEAN IS IT LOOKED ON AS A FAILURE OR IS IT GOING TO CONTINUE, OR WHAT IS THE GENERAL THINKING?

A: NOT MUCH. AS YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE NEWS IS COMING OUT OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. LET ME SAY THOUGH THAT THE DOOR HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR FUTURE TALKS.

AS THE SECRETARY SAID AFTER MEETING WITH RHODESIAN LEADERS IN SALISBURY, THE RHODESIANS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THEY WISH TO TAKE TIME TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY UPON OUR PROPOSALS. HE ALSO SAID THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TO GIVE ALL THE HELP WE CAN TO TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA.

Q: IT'S MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WILLING TO TALK WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT? THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS NOT WILLING TO TALK TO THE SALISBURY

GOVERNMENT.

IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING OR IS IT  
SOMETHING ELSE?

A: I REALLY DON'T HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT I'M PREPARED  
TO GO INTO WITH YOU AT THE MOMENT. WE ARE STILL ASSESSING  
THE RESULTS OF ALL THESE VARIOUS VISITS IN THE AREA.

Q: IT WOULDN'T BE INACCURATE TO DESCRIBE IT THIS WAY.  
I MEAN THIS IS WHAT THE REPORTS SEEM TO INDICATE --  
THAT THEY HAD BEEN INVITED, THAT THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT  
WAS WILLING TO MEET.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 099772

NOW, IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WON'T MEET -- AS THEY'VE  
STATED, APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS -- I'M  
WONDERING WHY WE EXPECT THE SALISBURY GROUP TO BE  
WILLING TO MEET WITH A GROUP THAT WON'T BE WILLING TO  
MEET.

A: I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSESS THE ACCURACY OF YOUR  
UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT TOOK PLACE IN RHODESIA.

Q: AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS BEEN QUOTED IN A LOT OF THE

INTERNATIONAL PRESS AS STRESSING THAT A SOLUTION TO THE  
SOUTHERN AFRICA CRISIS COULD ONLY TAKE PLACE IN THE CONTEXT  
OF A PROGRAM FOR OVERALL HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE AREA.

NOW WE WERE, FRANKLY, A LITTLE BIT SURPRISED TO SEE THAT  
COME OUT FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG, BUT THEY WERE VERY  
INTERESTING STATEMENTS AND THE PRESS HASN'T PICKED UP ON  
THEM IN THIS COUNTRY AT ALL; AND WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-  
THING SIMILAR COMING OUT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. COULD  
YOU JUST SEE IF THERE IS SOME KIND OF STATEMENT TO  
THAT EFFECT, THAT YOU COULD MAKE OFFICIALLY?

Q: WAS THERE ANY STATE DEPARTMENT OBSERVER OR PARTICIPA-  
TION IN THE DEMONSTRATION -- I THINK IT WAS IN NASHVILLE  
-- ABOUT THIS SOUTH AFRICAN TENNIS PARTICIPATION?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: TOM, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN ANY WAY CONCERNED ABOUT  
THE ETHIOPIAN THREAT TO INVADE SOMALIA?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 099772

A: WE ARE DISTURBED BOTH BY THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT (THIS WAS THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO KENYA) AND BY THE REPORTS OF CONTINUED GUERRILLA FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF A RENEWED OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WERE TO COMPROMISE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCES OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO MOVE TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WE BELIEVE ALL SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM FURTHER USE OF VIOLENCE AND THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE TO TRY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE PROMISE FROM COLONEL MENGISTU NOT TO INVADE SOMALIA. IN WHAT RESPECT DO YOU HAVE RESPONSE TO THAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q- YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROMISES FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT NOT TO INVADE SOMALIA -- CURRENTLY?

A: I BELIEVE THAT WE DID HAVE SOME ASSURANCES SOMETIME AGO, THAT SUCH ACTION WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED.

Q: NOTHING NEW, THOUGH?

A: I AM JUST NOT AWARE OF WHAT WE HAVE HAD RECENTLY. WE DO HAVE THIS STATEMENT BY THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO KENYA, WHICH I JUST ADDRESSED FOR YOU.

Q: THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE THIS CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT READY FOR ANSWER ON THIS -- DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THESE THREATS ARE MORE THAN JUST RHETORIC AND THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT  
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PAGE 06 STATE 099772

ETHIOPIA MAY INVADE SOMALIA?

A: I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO GO BEYOND THIS STATEMENT, BUT OBVIOUSLY SINCE WE DID CHOOSE TO ADDRESS IT AND TO STATE THAT WE WERE DISTURBED BY THE REPORT, THAT IS EXACTLY OUR POSTURE. WE ARE CONCERNED.  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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